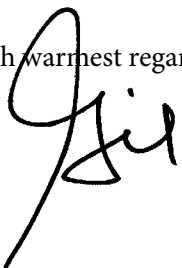# ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
facts & information

Dear Friend,

America is a nation of immigrants. My own family emigrated from Germany in the late 1880s. We are a nation built on hard work, freedom, opportunity and an improved way of life. While I fully support legal immigration, we cannot encourage individuals to break our laws and enter the country illegally.

Border protection is important to our national security and economy. For more than two centuries, Americans have fought to protect our sovereignty and secure our borders. Sadly, today our borders are a sieve, allowing illegal immigrants to pour into the country.

The time has come to reform and enforce our immigration policies. I hope you'll take a few minutes to review the following information about the real costs of illegal immigration.

With warmest regards,

DEMOGRAPHICS

Forty-two percent of births to immigrants are to illegal alien mothers. In 2005, births to illegal aliens will account for one in 10 births in the United States.

In the three months following the announcement of the Administration's willingness to permit foreigners already working inside the United States to participate in its temporary worker program, the number of illegal aliens apprehended along the southwestern border soared 25 percent over the same period during the previous year.

(Source: "Alternatives to Amnesty: Proposals for Fair and Effective Immigration Reform," Edwin Meese III, James Jay Carafano, Ph.D., Matthew Spalding, Ph.D. and Paul Rosenzweig, June 2, 2005)

Snapshot of a typical illegal alien:
- Age: 32
- Average household: four people
- Average education: seven years
- Hourly wage: $5.45
- Annual individual income: $8,982
- Annual family income: $15,364.

At the time of this survey, many of the illegal aliens were well established, having lived in the United States for more than ten years.

Estimate of illegal aliens in Minnesota: 60,000-94,000.

(Source: "Distribution of the Illegal Alien Population," Federation for American Immigration Reform, June 2003)

Health Care

Illegal aliens are eligible for emergency Medicaid services and emergency medical services provided by the states.

For each fiscal year (FY2005-FY2008), the Medicare bill passed in 2003 will appropriate $250 million to states to be distributed based on the following criteria:

- $167 million is allotted to states based on the percentage of unauthorized aliens residing in the state compared to the total number of unauthorized aliens in the United States; and
- $83 million is allocated to the six states with the highest percentage of unauthorized alien apprehensions.

(Source: Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MPDIMA) of 2003, Public Law 108-173)

Education

K-12 expenditures for illegal alien children total $12 billion per year while expenditures for illegal alien children plus children born in the United States to illegal aliens total $28.6 billion per year.

The cost to educate children of illegal aliens in Minnesota in 2004 was $276.6 million.

(Source: "Breaking the Piggy Bank: How Illegal Immigration is Sending Schools Into the Red," Jack Martin, June 2005)

Crime

Currently, criminal aliens account for more than 29 percent of prisoners in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities.

(Source: Federal Bureau of Prisons)

Incarceration of criminal aliens costs an estimated $624 million to state prisons in 1999 and $891 million to federal prisons in 2002.

(Source: Bureau of Justice)

From 1995 to 2000, Immigration and Naturalization Services released more than 35,000 criminal aliens instead of deporting them. More than 11,000 of those released went on to commit serious crimes – 1,800 of which were violent, including 98 homicides, 142 sexual assaults and 44 kidnappings.

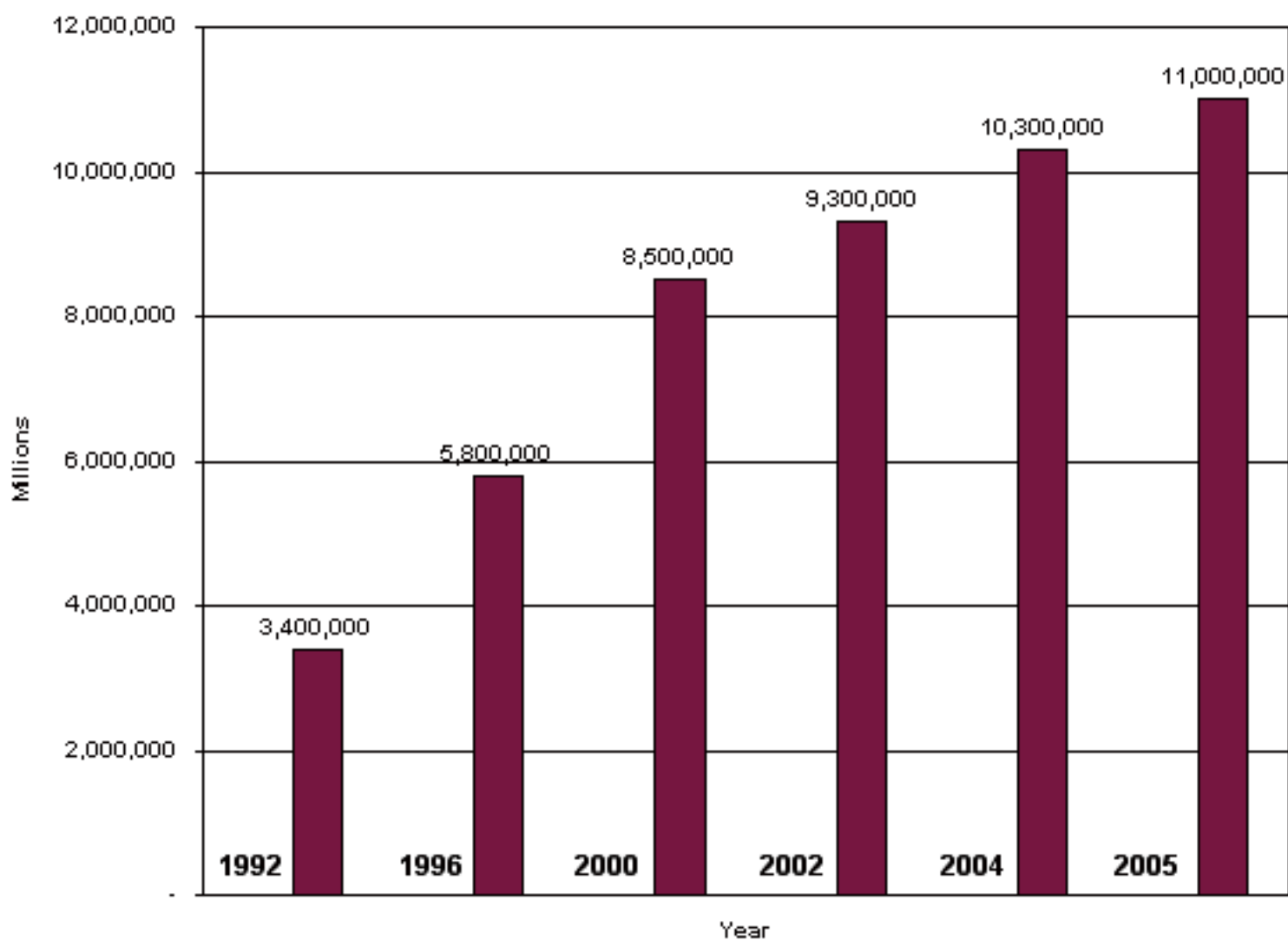*(Source: Federation for American Immigration Reform)*

Labor

Fifty-five percent of hired farm workers are unauthorized to work in the United States.

Sixty to 70 percent of seasonal agriculture workers provide fraudulent documents, according to audits by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(Source: "Farm Labor Shortages and Immigration Policy," Linda Levine, February 22, 2005)

Estimated Number of Illegal Aliens Living in the United States

Source: U.S. Census Bureau